

### **3.25 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY**

Implementation of any of the alternatives would result in local short-term impacts and uses of resources, while providing long-term transportation improvements in the I-405 corridor and the region consistent with state, regional, and local land use and transportation plans and policies.

Short-term construction effects of the I-405 Corridor Program improvements would include the generation of construction jobs, construction-related noise and particulate air pollution, traffic delays, and local detours. These short-term effects, however, would yield facilities with long-term benefits to the local area and region by improving through-traffic flow, promoting more efficient local traffic circulation, expanding transit accessibility, and reducing associated air pollutant emissions.

Short-term soil erosion and water quality impacts also may result during and shortly after construction, although landscaping, erosion controls, and other mitigation measures would be incorporated to minimize impacts. In the long term, the addition of new stormwater facilities in the I-405 corridor would provide peak flow reductions and water quality improvements that would be expected to result in a net beneficial effect on receiving waters, wetlands, and aquatic life in the corridor. Associated reductions in stream channel erosion and in non-point pollution from roadway surfaces could enhance the long-term productivity of aquatic habitats along the corridor. Fish and wildlife dependent on these resources would benefit from these enhancements.

Many small areas within the I-405 corridor may be used temporarily for construction-related activities such as construction staging and temporary access roads. These areas would be restored in order to minimize long-term effects on biological productivity. At waterway crossings, stream banks affected by construction would be returned to original contours when possible, and the riparian area would be revegetated using native plants for long-term stabilization and maintenance or enhancement of productivity.

Wetland functions, such as water quality improvement, flood storage, and biological support, would be reduced locally due to conversion of wetlands to transportation facility uses. However, wetland mitigation would be designed to replace lost wetland functional values over the long-term so that corridor-wide wetland functions are maintained or enhanced. Proposed improvements would eliminate the long-term agricultural productivity of any farmlands converted to transportation uses.

Construction of any of the alternatives would have the short-term effect of displacement and relocation of some residences and businesses in the corridor. There may be some initial, relatively minor reduction in property tax revenues for these jurisdictions due to the loss of residential and commercial properties (although many of the displacements could be expected to relocate within the same jurisdiction). In the long term, the action alternatives would be consistent with maintaining and enhancing the long-term productivity of the area.

The I-405 Corridor Program action alternatives are consistent with comprehensive planning by state, regional, and local agencies responsible for maintaining orderly development and infrastructure within their areas of jurisdiction. The proposed improvements would be compatible with the population and employment that the growing areas in the corridor and region

are expected to receive. These improvements would benefit residents along the corridor by providing more efficient access to local services, facilities, and employment, and by improving transit and general traffic movement throughout the region.

The proposed action alternatives would result in increased safety to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians and more efficient vehicle movement through the area. By improving personal and freight mobility, enhancing reliability, increasing accessibility, and decreasing travel time, the proposed I-405 Corridor Program improvements would enhance long-term productivity within the corridor and region.